

Columbia MD Family History Center Temple and Family History Consultant In-service Training Letter, Oct 2017

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Fun and Help on the Wiki

FamilySearch has been developing a genealogical research version of the well-known Wikipedia. Using the same technology, we have been trying to capture and display the wisdom of generations of genealogists for the benefit of everyone who seeks help with genealogical challenges. At our Family History Center we have all of the computers ready to give patrons and staff members access to the wiki. There are three “tree” icons at the top of the electronic desktop of all of the computers, one of which is to the Columbia Maryland Family History Center wiki page.

We have recently been adding some links to “Fun” and “Help” near the bottom of the page. On the “Fun” side there are links to the family trees of Donald Duck as well as to the Greek Gods and the Roman Gods. We are open to suggestions for additional “fun” links.

More importantly to staff members and consultants, there is a growing list of links to “Help” files. The first two are for help with TeamViewer and how to change the language settings on our computers. We anticipate “Help Pages” for the use of the scanner for 35mm slides, and how to use our large multi-purpose scanner to put photos into FamilySearch. The help pages already on the Admin computer are being considered for inclusion on our wiki page. If you have developed a help page and would like to share it with others, please contact the Columbia MD Family History Center directors.

Merging

One of the important skills Temple and Family History Consultants need to be ready to use to help FamilySearch users is “Merging.” One of the major causes for the need to merge is that in New.FamilySearch the “submitted pedigrees” were added to the Family Tree. For example, the pedigree I submitted was identical to the pedigree my brother submitted. SLC has acknowledged that it is up to the families to resolve the problem through merging. Perhaps the most crucial time to merge is before submitting a name for temple work--this is important to minimize the number of times temple work is done for the same person.

A benefit of merging is that it tends to bring together all the children in the same family as the multiple copies of the parents are merged. During the period of “Name Extraction,” whenever a

record for a child was created, records for the parents were also created. I have found the need to merge as many as 10 sets of parents to organize the children into one family.

The message here is that consultants need to become comfortable with merging for their own needs and for training patrons. If you have any doubts, please ask for help.

Additional sources of in-service training

FamilySearch has a wealth of material for helping consultants and patrons learn more about genealogy. However there are other providers of great training. Check out http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2017/10/bcg-quality-day-of-education-webinars-now-available-for-a-limited-time.html as an example of what is available online. Also, 2017 RootsTech videos are still available. Moreover, each year the Family History Centers in Baltimore and Kensington present workshops. The main problem seems to be choosing among the many available options and keeping track of what is upcoming.

Google Queries

About 1/2 of the families in the stake do not have extensive family trees in FamilySearch. For those families, a good place to start it is to look for obituaries of recently deceased family members. Since about 2005, mortuaries in the US have been providing the service of keeping obituaries on their own servers, which is a real boon for people getting started with their family history. By using the link https://www.google.com/advanced_search, anyone can filter their queries fairly easily to get useful results. The problem is finding information in the gap created by the privacy rules limiting how soon US Census and other records can be made public. For many families, recent obituaries help bridge the gap.

RootsTech 2017

If you are interested in viewing or reviewing the 2017 sessions of RootsTech, they are available at <https://www.geneabloggers.com/rootstech-2017-session-videos-now-available/>

RootsTech 2018

If you are planning to go to RootsTech 2018, you need to purchase a ticket. Don't wait too long because the price does go up.

Helpful Ideas from Riverton FamilySearch Library:

1. My Heritage

This site has more than 7 billion historical records, 2 billion-plus names in family trees and millions of photos. Based in Israel, it is the largest repository for family trees in the world! It is a subscription site but free in any LDS Family History Library or Family History Center. Adding your tree on this site is free up to 250 relatives.

Should you put your own tree on here? Yes!!! Don't roll your eyes at the prospect of yet another tree. This one can't be altered by well-meaning cousins. And, once you add your tree, MyHeritage automatically matches names in your tree with billions of names in its huge collection. You can also search their collections and databases for records. Remember, no one has everything...no one! If you're going to break through that brick wall, you have to be willing to go everywhere.

2. Down on the Farm

Do you have ancestors from England, Scotland, Denmark, Sweden or Norway? If so, knowing the name of the farm where they lived & worked can be a tremendously valuable piece of information that helps to identify your particular ancestor. For example, how many Jens Peterson's are there in Denmark and how do you know which one is yours? Knowing the farm name will allow you to identify and follow the family through subsequent records such as clerical, census, parish records and household examinations (done every few years in Sweden and Denmark). Look for the same names to be sure you have the right family. You can then look for the same names (& nicknames) to continue.

Where to find farm names – find the birth record of just one of your ancestors and it will list the farm name which you then use as a guide through records before and after their birth & will give you other family members; also look at local Gazetteers.

In Sweden, some farm names go back to the Viking age of medieval times. Farm names often stayed the same & families lived there for generations. Go to the FamilySearch Wiki for locality-specific helps.

**** Do NOT add the farm name to the place of birth or death in your ancestor's details page in FamilySearch. Put that vital information into *Other Information* just below birth/death; to *Add & to Residence*.**

3. **A One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy** <https://stevemorse.org/>

Stephen Morse has put together a fantastic, free resource for family history. It is a one-stop-shop for researchers. Please keep in mind that no one site has everything. Remember that there are many records that are not on-line.

"This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications. Some of these tools fetch data from other websites but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided on those websites." (stevenmorse.org)

Scroll all the way down and see what he has to offer. I think you will be astonished. Then go to the top of the page and click on "About this website and how to use it".

4. **Genuki** <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

Do you have ancestors from the United Kingdom? If so, this site is for you! It is similar to WorldGenWeb and USGenWeb, in that it is free and can contain some incredibly useful resources indigenous to the area you are searching.

"GENUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers." Genuki.com

Go to their home page, and click on the locality you are interested in. It covers England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Iceland, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. Each site has links to census records, church records, court records, military records, cemetery records, land records, and much more. Be sure to click on EVERYTHING, and see where it takes you.